AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 6-18 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claim 1 as set forth below.

5   1.   (Currently Amended) A data storage system, comprising:

a first network storage controller (NSC) including a processor and associated non-volatile memory divided into a primary memory segment and a mirror memory segment;

a second NSC including a processor and associated non-volatile
10   memory divided into a primary memory segment and a mirror memory segment;

at least one FCAL connected to the first NSC and the second NSC;

a plurality of storage devices connected to the FCAL;

a point-to-point communication link between the first NSC and the
15   second NSC;

wherein the primary memory in the first NSC and the mirror memory in the second NSC are allocated in corresponding blocks[.]; and

wherein the NSCs reserve positions for command-response data in the data flow on the point-to-point communication link.

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2.   (Original) The data storage system of claim 1, wherein the primary memory in the second NSC and the mirror memory in the first NSC are allocated in corresponding blocks.

25   3.   (Original) The data storage system of claim 1, wherein command-response data is transmitted between the first NSC and the second NSC in one or more named resources.

4.   (Original) The data storage system of claim 1, wherein data
30   transmitted as a result of a write I/O operation directed by the first NSC is mirrored in the mirror memory of the second NSC.

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5.   (Original) The data storage system of claim 1, wherein data transmitted as a result of a write I/O operation directed by the second NSC is mirrored in the mirror memory of the first NSC.

5   6-18. Canceled.

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